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Letter dated 20 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letters of 24 and 25 May 2006 (S/2006/320 and S/2006/327), and my statement to the Security Council on 13 June, I am writing to update you on New Zealand's security assistance to Timor-Leste.

On 17 July 2006, a contingent of 25 New Zealand police personnel began operations in Timor-Leste to assist with the international effort in restoring the rule of law, as requested by the Timorese leadership. This deployment is for a three-month term and is additional to the 190 New Zealand Defence Force personnel who have been in Timor-Leste since late May and early June 2006. The New Zealand police personnel have deployed alongside New Zealand Defence Force staff in their area of operations in the Becora area of Dili. They will be engaged primarily in community policing work.

Our security forces continue to work closely with Australian, Malaysian and Portuguese forces, and in cooperation with the Government of Timor-Leste. The security situation has improved significantly but remains fragile. New Zealand will continue to support the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste and relevant United Nations agencies in their efforts in Timor-Leste. New Zealand remains a committed bilateral partner of Timor-Leste, and we will continue to assist.

We have conveyed this information separately to the Secretary-General. I would be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rosemary **Banks**
Permanent Representative

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